

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 259

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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ADCOR

E. O.11652: N/ A

TAGS: US SPOP EAID SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN AID AND POPULATION

REF: (A) STATE 76946 (NOTAL)

(B) STOCKHOLM 2731, AUGUST 24, 1972 (NOTAL)

1. REF A ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT GOS OUTLOOK ON AID IN POPULATION FIELD. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH STAFFAN SOHLMANN, MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF MULTILATERAL AID, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT GOS, OKE OTHER DONORS, IS NOW CONVINCED THAT FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS ARE INEFFECTIVE IN ISOLATION FROM OTHER AID PROGRAMS. GOS NOW BELIEVES THAT POPULATION POLICY MUST BE INTEGRAL PART OF TOTAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, USUALLY AS PART OF HEALTH AND MATERNITY CARE SECTORS.

2. IN KEEPING WITH GENERAL SWEDISH BILATERAL AID POLICY THAT RECIPIENT COUNTRY MUST DETERMINE PRIORITIES, GOS NOW FAVORS
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BILATERAL FAMILY PLANNING AID ONLY IF RECIPIENT INDICATES STRONG ENOUGH INTEREST TO BE WILLING TO ALLOCATE SCARCE AID RESOURCES TO IN IT PREFERENCE TO OTHER SECTORS.

3. RE MILILATERAL AID, GOS WELCOMES CREATION OF UNFPA AND ITS NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH UNDP. GOS EXPECTS THAT TIS OWN BILATERAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM WILL BE GRADUALLY BE PHASED OUT AND SUPERSEDE BY UNFPA MULTILATERAL ACTIITIES. THIS EXPECTATION IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION, HOWEVER, THAT UNFPA WILL BECOME MORE EFFICIENT. GOS CRITICISM OF UNFPA INEFFICIENCY IS IMPLICIT IN ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH DOCUMENTATION IN GENEVA LAST WEEK AND IN FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM MFA ANNEX TO 1973 BUDGET BILL. BEGIN QUOTE. THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA) FINANCES PROJECTS THAT ARE MAINLY CARRIED OUT BY UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. ACTIVITIES ARE BASED ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. TOTAL ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION COMMITMENTS FOR 1972 AMOUNT TO ABOUT \$35 MILLION.

US GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECENTLY DECIDED TO COMMISSION UNDP BOARD TO ADMINISTER POPULATION FUND. THUS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUND HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM SECRETARY GENERAL TO AN INTERNATIONAL AGENCY.

AT SAME TIME, IT IS CLEAR THAT A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH DESIRE TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF FUND WILL REMAIN TO BE SOLVED. AMONG THESE IS IMPORTANT QUESTION OF

COORDINATION BETWEEN PROGRAMS FINANCED BY UNFPA AND ACTIVITIES OF UNDP IN GENERAL.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SWEDEN SHOULD CLOSELY FOLLOW THE REORGANIZATION OF UNFPA AND WORK FOR AN INCREASE IN EFFECTIVENESS OF FUND. PENDING RESULTS OF REORGANIZATION AND IN VIEW OF LOW RATE OF UTILIZATION OF FUND MONEYS, AN UNCHANGED SWEDISH CONTRIBUTION IF RECOMMENDED DURING FISCAL YEAR 1974/75, I. E. SKR 15 MILLION (\$3.3 MILLION). MULTI- YEAR COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN EFFECTS OF REORGANIZATION CAN BE REVIEWED.

IT SHOULD BE MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT PREPARATORY WORK ON POPULATION CONFERENCE CONVENED BY UN IN 1974 HAS NOW ENTERED INTO ACTIVE PHASE. UN POPULATION CIMMISSION HAS BEEN ACCORDED POSITION OF INTERNATIONAL PREPARATORY BODY FOR CONFERENCE, AND SECRETARY GENERAL FOR CONFERENCE HAS BEEN APPOINTED. SWEDEN CONSIDERES THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR BROAD INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION OF POPULATION QUESTION AND FOR DECIDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY OF UN IN THIS IMPORTANT ARE. SWEDISH PREPARATORY WORK FOR CONFERENCE IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UN POPULATION CONFERENCE WHICH WAS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 17, 1972. THIS WILL ENABLE SWEDEN TO TAKE ACTIVE PART IN

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE SPHERE IN QUESTION. END QUOTE.

4. AMEMBASSADOR INGE THORSSON IS CHAIRMAN OF SWEDISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR UN POPULATION CONFERENCE, OF WHICH SIDA DIRECTOR GENERAL ERNST MICHANEK IS MEMBER. AMBASSADOR THORSSON IS ALSO SWEDISH REPRESENTATIVE ON UN POPULATION COMMISSION. SOME BACKGROUND ON MICHANEK'S POSITION IS GIVEN IN REF. B.
OLSEN

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